

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed on **03 April 2007**, the Examiner deemed that the amendments proposed in the Reply to Office Action mailed on **26 February 2007** failed to place the application in better form for appeal. In the Office Action dated **24 January 2007**, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Baisley et al (USPN 6,415,299, hereinafter “Baisley”).

Amendments to the Specification

The Specification has been amended to correct several typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-24 were rejected as being anticipated by Baisley. Applicant respectfully points out that Baisley discloses a system for merging multiple versions of an object. This involves amending a target version of an **object** to include any changes made in a source version of the object (see Baisley, col. 1, lines 65-67, and col. 5, lines 31-36).

In contrast, the present invention teaches merging multiple versions of **metadata** associated with multiple objects or multiple versions of an object (see page 6, paragraph [0026], and see page 10, paragraph [0042] of the instant application). **Metadata is inherently different from an object**, and thus **merging metadata is not equivalent to merging multiple versions of an object**. An object, as defined by Baisley, consists of the operations the object can perform and the state of the object, which is specified by structural features or variables. These structural features include attributes and references. The attributes are values maintained by the object, and the references are links that join two objects together (see Baisley, col. 3, lines 1-3, lines 6-11, and lines 19-21). In contrast,

metadata is information that describes an object, but that is not inherent in the object. Merging two versions of an object may change the object, but it will not alter the metadata files associated with the object. The present invention teaches a method for merging these metadata files, which can occur regardless of whether objects are merged. Furthermore, merging two versions of an object does not necessitate that metadata will be merged.


Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify that the present invention uses an action plan to facilitate merging metadata associated with a first version of a database object with metadata associated with a second version of an object. These amendments find support on page 10, paragraphs [0042]-page 11, paragraph [0044] of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-4 and 6-8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-12 and 14-16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 18-20 and 22-24, which depend upon claim 17, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 16 April 2007

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